

1. Amendment of the discipline-specific  
**Study and Examination Regulation**  
**(StPO: Studien- und Prüfungsordnung)**  
for the MA programme in  
Social Work as a Human Rights Profession  
of the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences  
(ASH Berlin: Alice-Salomon –  
Hochschule für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik Berlin)

in accordance with § 2 of the General Study and Examination Regulation of ASH Berlin.

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## **Preamble**

The Academic Senate of Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences (ASH Berlin) has adopted the 1st amendment of the Study and Examination Regulation (StPO) for the MA programme Social Work as a Human Rights Profession (hereinafter: SWHR) on 25 April 2017 on the basis of § 31, subsect 1, sent 3 and subsect 2 in conjunction with § 61, subsect 1, nos 4 and 5 of the Act on Universities of Applied Science in the Land of Berlin (BerlHg: Berliner Hochschulgesetz) in the version in the public notice of 26 July 2011 (GVBl. (official gazette of Land of Berlin) p 378) and of § 2 of the General Study and Examination Regulation (RSPO: Rahmenstudien- und -prüfungsordnung) of ASH Berlin. This MA programme is run in cooperation with the following institutions: Zentrum für Postgraduale Studien der Sozialen Arbeit e.V., Berlin; Coberg University of Applied Sciences and Arts; Malmö University; University of Gothenburg; University of Ljubljana; and the University of Glasgow. The cooperation is governed by the relevant cooperation agreement.

## **§1 Scope**

(1) This Study and Examination Regulation (StPO) governs the organisation, realisation and content of the of course of study and the examinations in the MA SWHR programme at ASH Berlin.

(2) This StPO is supplemented by the Module Handbook (in the English language) and by the general by-laws of ASH Berlin, and particularly the General Study and Examination Regulation (RSPO) and the regulations regarding access and admission to the programme that are currently in force. ASH Berlin students have a duty to be guided in their studies by the by-laws currently in force.

## **§ 2 Academic degrees**

For successful completion of the programme, ASH Berlin will award, through the person of the Rector, the academic degree of Master of Arts.

## **§ 3 Programme objectives and content**

(1) The general objectives of the programme are laid down in RSPO § 4.

(2) The programme's discipline-specific aims are to foster in its students an understanding of themselves as professionals that is based on the "triple mandate" of social work and the development of the ability to work skilfully with science-based theories of action and appropriately justified methods of intervention. Human rights, in their role of providing the normative framework for social action, constitute the central points of reference. To develop the ability to evaluate recent scientific studies independently and to encourage or carry out project-related practice-based research. The implementation of these objectives within the individual thematic fields and learning and work formats occurs in the module descriptions (see Module Handbook). The programme takes up issues of diversity and gender and explores them in greater depth. It prepares students to work in international and transnational fields. The language of instruction is English.

(3) The MA programme is a full-time course of study. The standard period of study is four semesters.

(4) In total, the programme encompasses 120 credits.

#### **§ 4 Programme structure and teaching formats**

(1) The course is structured in modules, see Annex 1 (Sample study plan).

(2) The course is organised on the basis of the following principles and teaching formats: it is made up of block seminars which are associated with e-learning components and independent study, one six-month project phase and the period devoted to writing the MA thesis.

#### **§ 5 Practical study semesters and practical training phases**

The programme establishes one six-month project phase (fourth semester), which is supported by the programme's teaching staff and completed with a project report (see D module).

#### **§ 6 Assessed work (*Prüfungsleistungen*)**

(1) Auditing students do not take part in assessed work in the modules. Students attending a programme module on the basis of enrolment in another programme may only take part in the assessed work of the module if the main programme in which they are enrolled is an MA programme in which the selected module can be recognised.

(2) The following formats are available for assessed work (*Prüfungsleistungen*):

- proctored written exam, cf. RSPO § 15, subsect 1
- essay cf. RSPO § 15, subsect 2
- portfolio cf. RSPO § 15, subsect 2
- practice report, cf. RSPO § 15, subsect 3
- oral exam, cf. RSPO § 16, subsect 1
- lecture (*Referat*), cf. RSPO § 16, subsect 2
- presentation, cf. RSPO § 16, subsect 3

Every module concludes with a piece of assessed work. The module descriptions (see Module Handbook) set out the selection of assessment formats available within each module. Online submission of assessed written work in accordance with RSPO § 15 subsect. 2 is also possible (see Annex 1, Sample study plan).

#### **§ 7 MA thesis**

(1) In their theses, students should demonstrate the ability to design a research question in one of the thematic areas addressed within the course, justify said question, and tackle it in a scholarly fashion under the direction of their thesis supervisor. In this context, a clear connection to the discipline and the profession of social work as a human rights profession should be made plain. The MA thesis can also be designed with a view to a future dissertation and lay the groundwork for further research questions.

(2) To be admitted to the MA thesis stage, students must present evidence of the following must: successful completion of Module A (60 credits) and performance of the relevant assessed work.

(3) The period for preparation of the MA thesis is 25 weeks, or 30 weeks in the case of empirical projects. In individual cases the deadline for submission of the MA thesis can be extended by a maximum of 8 weeks at the student's written request and upon provision of credible evidence as to grounds, including in the case of impediment under RSPO § 21, subsect 2 and 3 and on grounds under RSPO § 13, subsect 3. The MA thesis work is supervised by two teachers who are selected by the students on the basis of the topic upon prior consultation. All programme teachers and all members of the ASH teaching staff are eligible to take on the role of thesis supervisor. At least one of the reviewers must be a university teacher at ASH or at one of the cooperating institutions or have taken on function of person responsible for the module within the programme in accordance with the cooperation agreements. In other respects, the provisions of the RSPO apply.

(4) 15 ECTS are awarded for the thesis, cf. Annex 1 (Model study plan).

## § 8 Award of credit for competences acquired outside of higher education

(1) ASH Berlin students are entitled to request the Examinations Committee to award credit for competences acquired outside of higher education, competences acquired within the context of professional training or professional activities, for instance, and which are equivalent in terms of content and level to the learning objectives of individual modules of the MA programme.

## § 9 Final degree mark (*Gesamtnote*) and completion of the programme

(1) The final degree mark (*Gesamtnote*) is made up of the grades for the modules and the grade for the MA thesis. The final degree mark for the completed programme results from the weighted arithmetic mean of all graded pieces of assessed work; the thesis module grade is doubled when entered into the calculation for the final degree mark. See Annex 1, Model study plan, for the weighting of the individual modules. A student who has successfully completed all course modules and obtained the number of credits required for the programme has successfully completed the MA programme.

(2) The final degree classification (*Gesamtpredikat*) of “*sehr gut mit Auszeichnung*” [very good with distinction] will be awarded instead of the final degree classification of “*sehr gut*” [very good] if a final degree mark of 1.2 or better is achieved. In addition to the final degree mark, the certificate documents will show the statistical distribution of the final degree marks awarded in the programme in the previous four semesters, in the form of a grading table.

<i>Final degree mark</i>	<i>Final degree classification</i>	<i>Total number awarded in the reference group</i>	<i>Percentage of grades</i>
1.0 – 1.2	<i>sehr gut mit Auszeichnung [very good, with distinction]</i>		
1.3 – 1.5	<i>sehr gut [very good]</i>		
1.6 – 2.5	<i>gut [good]</i>		
2.6 – 3.5	<i>befriedigend [satisfactory]</i>		
3.6 – 4.0	<i>ausreichend [sufficient]</i>		
above 4.0	<i>nicht bestanden [fail]</i>		
	<i>Total:</i>		100 %

## § 10 Certificate documents

The transcript of records contains information about the thesis topic and its assessment and the assessments of the other modules examinations. In addition, the final degree mark and the total credits associated with the programme are to be indicated on the certificate.

## § 11 Entry into force

This regulation enters into force on the day it is made public in the official gazette of ASH Berlin.

Prof. Dr. Uwe Bettig  
Rector